

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

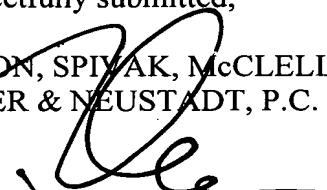
New Claims 6-20 are supported throughout the specification and by Claims 1-5 as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner is requested to consider the IDS filed March 31, 2004. A copy of the PTO-1449 and date-stamped filing receipt is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

All claims pending herein require subjecting the product gas mixture A, the product gas mixture A', and/or the gas mixture B, before the at least one heterogeneously catalyzed partial oxidation and/or ammoxidation, to at least one mechanical separating operation by which solid particles present in these gas mixtures can be removed. This is not suggested or disclosed in EP '463. That is, nowhere in the reference is such a mechanical separation step mentioned or suggested. This is noted at specification page 2, lines 23-30, and the advantages of such mechanical separation are set forth in the specification and the Example, which starts at specification page 14. The claimed mechanical separation can be effected via, e.g., the apparatuses suggested in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification.

Because EP '463 neither discloses nor suggests the invention as claimed, and in fact is an example of the prior art described at specification page 2 that fails to use mechanical separation (and is thus subject to the problems there described), the rejections over this reference should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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